



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

October 3, 2013

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

MINUTES

PRESENT: James Heitel, Chairman
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner
Robert Frost, Commissioner
Con Englehorn, Commissioner

ABSENT: Marg Nelssen, Commissioner
Mike Milillo, Commissioner

STAFF: Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Scott Hamilton
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer
Liz Hildenbrand
John Loleit

GUESTS: Mike Nolan
Jack McEnroe
John Holmes
Betty Miller
BJ Heggli

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Begins at 5:03; approximately 1 minute into the meeting)

BJ Heggli discussed trails at Brown's Ranch and the positive feedback he has gotten from trail users and requested that a discussion be agendaized for the November meeting to discuss "lessons learned" from Phase One at Brown's Ranch.

Betty Miller requested that the reference to a "park" be replaced with "Preserve" on the interpretive trails signs.

John Holmes requested that a system be implemented to quickly indicate receipt of citizen emails submitted through the City website. He distributed a handout, noting that the second page contained a list of requests and recommendations.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (Begins at 5:10; approximately 8 minutes into the meeting)

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of September 5, 2013

COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FROST, THE MOTION CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER WHEELER ABSTAINED.

5. **MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE** (Begins at 5:11; approximately 9 minutes into the meeting)

Mike Nolan reviewed MSC activities including the steward kickoff event, new steward orientations, and the Citizen Science Program training. He said that steward hours for August were up five percent from last year and distributed the September through December activity guide. He noted that the Tour de Scottsdale, which is a race around the Preserve, is being held on October 13th.

6. **DISCUSS OPTIONS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION** (Begins at 5:15; approximately 13 minutes into the meeting)

Commission Members discussed options for increasing public awareness and education about the Preserve. Options discussed included putting to a public vote the possibility of using existing Preserve funds, initiating a new bond specifically for marketing, and establishing an endowment. It was suggested that the catch phrase "ecotourism" be used in relation to the Preserve.

Mr. Murphy noted that the Economic Development group has included the Preserve as an amenity in its strategic plan.

Mr. Ekblaw committed that staff will bring back information on options, limitations, Preserve Tax restrictions, and long-range flexibility after the first of the year.

7. STAFF REPORTS (Begins at 5:34; approximately 32 minutes into the meeting)

- **Arizona Forward Awards**

Ms. Hildenbrand announced that the Arizona Forward Crescordia Award was awarded to Tom's Thumb Trailhead. The MSC Field Institute's science program received an Arizona Forward award of merit.

- **Lost Dog Wash Interpretive Trail**

Mr. Ekblaw gave an update on the Lost Dog Wash Interpretive Trail, noting that an evaluation of alternatives will be presented at an onsite open house scheduled for December or January.

- **Quarterly Financial Update**

Mr. Ekblaw presented the quarterly financial update for April through June.

- **Land Acquisition Status 2013/2014**

Mr. Ekblaw said that the State Land Department auction is scheduled for November 19th at 10:30 a.m. Should the City be the successful bidder, the City will receive \$8 million from Arizona State Parks. The Commission's recommendations on Parcels 1 and 1A were accepted by Council and are moving forward in the process with the State Land Department. He noted that he met with the State Land Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and staff to discuss the areas shown in blue and he will bring additional information to the Commission as it becomes available.

Commission Members asked questions about future priorities and equestrian use of washes.

- **October 19th Celebration**

Ms. Hildenbrand announced that the grand opening and celebration of the Northern Preserve lands will be held on October 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and distributed parking passes to the Commissioners.

- **Trail Updates**

Ms. Hildenbrand reviewed the north area trails planning process and Mr. Hamilton discussed the transition from the conceptual plan to the existing trails plan. He elaborated on the requirements for maintaining a sustainable trail.

Commission Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

John Holmes expressed concern that the City declare ownership of water rights on the lands that have been brought into the Preserve. Discussion ensued regarding water and mineral rights.

BJ Heggli asked to be kept informed on the approximate time frame for Phase Two of Brown's Ranch area trails construction.

7. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** (Begins at 6:20; approximately 1 hour, 18 minutes into the meeting)

Vice-Chair Klein suggested that a subcommittee be formed to review and update the 2011 Future Funding Report.

A discussion about the possible options will be agendized for November's meeting.

9. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2013 AND REVIEW ITEMS THROUGH JUNE 2014** (Begins at 6:26; approximately 1 hour and 24 minutes into the meeting)

Possible agenda items include:

- North Trailhead Study – Nov.
- Trail Standards – Nov.
- Lost Dog Wash Interpretive Trail Open House in Nov.-Dec.
- Overview of Preserve Master Plan Status and Process - Nov.
 - Existing Wildlife Water Sources Map
 - Arizona Game and Fish Wildlife Crossing Study
 - MSC Flora and Fauna Reports

Mr. Ekblaw distributed a list of general agenda ideas for Commission consideration and asked that Commission members contribute any ideas they may have.

Commissioner Frost asked that a discussion about trails in future land acquisition areas be agendized.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.